Decline in production of cereals and pulses

813. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the decline in the per capita annual production of cereals from 192 Kg. to 174 Kg. 1995 to 2007 and pulses from 15 Kg. to 12 Kg.; and

(b) if so, what are the steps contemplated by Government to set right this state of affairs alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (b) The estimated annual per capita production of cereals was 182.33 kilogram in 1995 which has come down to 181.56 kilogram in 2007. In case of pulses, the estimated annual per production was 13.62 kilogram in 1995 which has come down to 12.70 kilogram in 2007.

To increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses, Government has launched the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) from Rabi 2007-08. The NFSM targets to increase the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan, *i.e.* 2011-2012.

Suicides by farmers due to globalization and debtness

814. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:
DR. RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to reported suicides by more than 1700 farmers in 2006 according to the records of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB);

(b) if so, figure of such cases, State-wise;

(c) as the agriculture is the lifeline of vast section of Indians, whether Government is aware that since the advent of globalization, the agrarian sector has been in tatters;

(d) whether farmers have committed suicides due to indebtness; and

(e) what steps Government purpose to take to address the serious situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The State showing the State/UT-wise number of suicides under the subhead Self Employed (Farming/Agriculture) for the year 2006 as per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRU) in their publication 'Accidental deaths suicide in India 2006' enclosed (*See* below).

(c) Agriculture contributes nearly 18% of India's GDP with about 60% of the country's population dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. The progress in the agriculture has enabled the country to achieve food security. The foodgrains output which was about 74.23 million tonnes during 1966-67, was a record 217.28 million tonnes during the year 2006-07. There has been similar increase in the production of non-foodgrains crops as well as horticulture and plantation crops. However, the agricultrual growth during the Ninth Plan and first three years of the Tenth Plan was below the targeted growth of 4% per annum. Inadequate risk mitigation, non-availability of adequate institutional credit, natural calamities